

NATO allies. So I cautioned them on this at our NATO meeting. Many of them remain concerned that because they have soldiers on the ground—something we don't have—that their soldiers will be retaliated against if we take action from the air. That's not to say that there won't be retaliation, because we certainly discussed it in considerable length today, and I discussed it yesterday. But I just want to try to explain why there's more reluctance on the part of some of the Europeans than there is on the part of the United States, because they do have troops on the ground, and they are worried about some retaliation coming to those troops.

Q. What are your thoughts now on lifting the arms embargo?

The President. I've always been for it. I haven't changed my position on that. I do believe, however, that the appropriate thing to do now is to see if this horrible incident can be the spur to a vigorous effort to achieve a peace agreement. And that's what we ought to focus on now. If we continue to fail in the face of these kinds of incidents, I think that the United States position on the arms embargo is only reinforced by the kind of thing that happened yesterday. But I want to try to work with our allies now to take a shot at hoping we can bring this matter to a conclusion.

Q. Yesterday you said in your statement that you called the massacre a cowardly act. But some Members of Congress are saying that the U.S. is acting cowardly by repeatedly saying that they will consider air strikes without making good on those threats.

The President. Well, the United States, I will say again, under international law, in the absence of an attack on our people, does not have the authority to unilaterally undertake air strikes. And every time we discuss it, the other countries who have troops on the ground—and we don't. It's very well for these Members of Congress to say that; they don't have any constituents on the ground there. And the people who have constituents on the ground say, "Well, we have to think about whether our soldiers are going to be killed in large numbers in retaliation for this if you do it."

Now, as you know, I have long believed that we should have standby air strike author-

ity and that there are circumstances under which we should use it. In this case, again I want to say, the United Nations has not finished their confirmation process. And until they do, I think it would be inappropriate for me to make a final decision. But I do think you have to give some credence to the position of our European allies. They do have soldiers on the ground there who can be shot at and shelled long after our planes are gone, that is what is animating their position. That does not mean it won't happen this time. I have discussed it yesterday; I discussed it today. We are discussing it with our allies. But they are in a fundamentally different position, and they have been as long as they have had troops there.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:37 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the American Cancer Society's Cattlebarons Children's Party in Houston, Texas

February 6, 1994

The President. Well, hello, everybody.

Audience members. Hello.

The President. Have you had a good time at the party?

Audience members. Yes.

The President. Did you play some games?

Audience members. Yes.

The President. Some of you win?

Audience members. Yes.

The President. Well, that's good. I'm so glad to see all of you. I just came in from Washington on an airplane, and it was raining at the airport. And I'm glad to be here where it's dry. And I came in with your Mayor, Mayor Lanier, and Congressman Green. Who else is here? Is Congressman Washington here? Is anybody else here? Well, we're glad to see you, and I'm glad to be in Houston for a little while.

Audience members. That's all right.

The President. Yes, that's all right, isn't it?

You know, I—what's this? Is it for me? What's on that ring? What do you think?

Do you all want to ask me any questions? You do? What's your question?

The Presidency

Q. What's it like being President?

The President. What's it like being President? Well, depending on what humor they're in, it can be a lot of fun. [Laughter] Listen, you want to know what's fun about it, what's good about it? What's good about it is I get to go all over America and meet all different kinds of people and know that I have to work for all of them, people of all ages and all races.

It's good because I get to do things that help people and help solve problems. One of the things that we are doing more of this year is putting more money into medical research, something that you support, right? [Applause] And another thing that I'm trying to do is to figure out how to put more money into medical research and, at the same time, make sure that health care is available to every child in this country, every child, including a lot of people who don't have it today.

So I get to see all different kinds of people and work on different problems and try to make life better. It's a wonderful job. Sometimes it's hard, but it's always a good job.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Well, you really get right to it, don't you? [Laughter] His question was—where are they? Here's the head of my detail. Do I like having Secret Service agents around me all the time? The answer to that is, the true answer is, yes and no. Yes, I like it because their job is to protect me and my family, and they do a wonderful job of it. And no I don't, sometimes I just like to be an ordinary citizen. I just wish that I could take my wife and daughter and walk down the street and go to the movie or go to a restaurant or go in a shop and go shopping and just be alone. But it's not going to happen for a few years.

Who else had their hand up over here? Yes, ma'am, what's your question? Your name is Danielle? You've got a great nose, Danielle. [Laughter] What's your question?

Q. How does it feel to live in—

The President. In the White House?

Q. Yes.

The President. How does it feel to live in the White House? Well, it's a great honor. Do you know, every President since 1800 has lived in the White House. Every President except for George Washington has lived there. So it's wonderful to live there, because I carry all this history around. I go in rooms all the time, and I know every other President's been there.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. How old am I? [Laughter] I am very old. How old do you think I am?

Q. How old are you?

The President. How old do you think I am?

Q. Forty.

The President. Forty—oh, bless you. [Laughter] Bless you. Hey, hold on. Forty-six? Close.

Q. Forty-eight.

The President. I'm 47, 47.

Q. A hundred.

The President. One hundred—no. [Laughter] Listen, one at a time. What's your question? Stand up—what's your question? I've got you—yes, hold on. What's your question?

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. What do I do? I've been asking myself that lately. [Laughter] Well, first of all, I try to pass laws in the Congress that take care of the needs of the American people. I speak for the United States in the rest of the world. And I command the Armed Forces of the United States. Those are some of the things I do.

What?

Q. How do you like being President?

The President. I like it a lot. You'd like it, too, I think.

Q. What are your plans for the future?

The President. You mean for your future or for mine? For my future? You mean, what am I going to do when I grow up? [Laughter]

Q. When you're older.

The President. When I'm older.

Q. Yes.

The President. I'm just going to keep—I'm going to be the very best President I can be, and I'm not going to think about the future until I'm not President anymore.

Do you want to get down? Here, hold on, I've got your hand. Do you want to get down,

or do you want to stick with me? Nice boots. Hey, look at these boots. Let's give him a hand on these boots. I love them. [Applause] Better than mine. Do you like them better than mine?

Do you want to get down? You want to go down? Okay, I've got you.

Do you want to get up? Okay, you get up. You're next.

Okay, who's got another—go ahead, in the back.

Sh-h-h, I can't hear. Please be quiet so I can hear a question. Go ahead.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Yes, sometimes it's hard having a lot of responsibilities. Most of the time I like it, actually. I like being responsible for people and for their interests. But sometimes it's hard. Sometimes you just want to get up and not go to work and not have those responsibilities. But most days I really like it. It's a great honor to be responsible for other people.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Well, as President, I'm not supposed to express a preference, but I can tell you this: They earned it, didn't they? They did it by being good at what they did.

President's Activities

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. What do I drive? Believe it or not, one of the things that happens to you when you're President, they don't let you drive anymore. Some people think that I got hundreds of thousands of votes so I wouldn't be able to drive anymore. [Laughter] The Secret Service drives me, but normally, they drive me in either a Cadillac or a Lincoln limousine that's bulletproof, where the doors and the windows are real thick like that.

Q. Did you ever have to wash dishes? [Laughter]

The President. Did I ever have to wash dishes? You bet. I bet I've washed more dishes than most people in this room. [Laughter] But I even wash dishes now every now and then, but not often. But I don't mind that. I've washed a lot of dishes in my life, though.

Q. Why do you jog?

The President. Why do I jog? Because if I didn't, I'd get fat—ter than I am. [Laughter] And because I like it.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Do I get worn out traveling? When I travel a whole lot, I get tired. But I like to travel because it's the only way I get to see people in the country.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Am I going to run in 1996? Don't bet against it. But I haven't decided yet.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Why are they so thick? Why are they so thick? So the bullets don't break through. That's right. Good for you.

Yes, ma'am, what's your question? How does it feel when you're flying? Have you ever been in an airplane? Well, the truth is, most of the time it feels like it does on the ground. It's calm and nice and fun. But when you take off, it's real exciting because you're going up like that. And then sometime when you fly through a storm and it jumps up and down, it's kind of scary. But most of the time it's just normal.

Q. I thought you were 51.

The President. I'm not 51. Sometimes I feel like I'm 151, but I'm only 47.

That's the first person I shook hands with. Let's get a question there. Listen.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. What's my bowling average? I don't bowl enough to have one, but I think it's like about 135, about 135 for the last 8 games I've bowled. But when I was in high school, I had a 168 average. And I'm starting to bowl again, so I'm trying to—I bowled 149 this morning. But I'm not very good. But I want to be good again. I like it.

Okay, anybody who hasn't had a question?

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. My favorite sport? For me, personally, I like golf because that's the one I play the most. But I like watching basketball.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. My favorite movie of all time, ever? My favorite movie of all time is "High Noon." My second favorite movie of all time is a movie called "Casablanca." And the best movie I've seen this year is

"Schindler's List"; that's what I think, in my opinion, closely followed by "Shadowlands."

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Do I exercise? Yes, I go jogging five or six times a week, normally. And I have some weights I work out on, and I play golf as often as I can. The Secret Service jogs with me every day. And most of them are in better shape than I am and can run me to death. But sometimes I find one who is not in as good a shape as I am, and I enjoy that very much. [Laughter]

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Yes, I want all of you who haven't shaken my hand before I leave, you come up here and shake hands with me. You certainly can.

Okay, one more question. What is it? Is this for me? What am I going to do with all these rings? You all are killing me with rings here.

The Presidency

Q. How did you feel when you knew you became President?

The President. I was so happy, because I had worked very hard and because there were so many things I wanted to do. And I was really grateful, too. I just felt so grateful that people had given me that chance.

Q. What did you feel like when you weren't President, before?

The President. When I wasn't President? I was happy, too. I was happy then, too.

President's Health

Q. How is your health?

The President. My health is good, I think. I just went to the doctor, and I had tests for 6 hours. And they said that my blood pressure was good, my heart was strong. I lost 15 pounds since last year, so I'm doing pretty good. I've got 15 more to go.

I'm going to go look at the quilt. But look, I shook hands with some of you coming up, so if you shook hands with me, back up and let all the kids who didn't get to shake hands come up, and I'll shake hands with all the kids who didn't.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:51 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Bob Lanier of Houston. A tape was not

available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Texas Presidential Dinner and Gala in Houston

February 6, 1994

Thank you very much. My longtime friend Garry Mauro, and Chairman and Mrs. Wilhelm, Mayor and Mrs. Lanier, Secretary and Mrs. Bentsen. I want to say that I have a lot to be grateful to Texas for, big victory in the primaries here, an enormous amount of support, a lot of friends. But I think I probably owe you most for Lloyd Bentsen and Henry Cisneros.

I want to say also how much I appreciate two other Texans in my administration, one of whom is here and one is not, the Secretary of the Navy, John Dalton, from San Antonio, and my good friend, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Bob Armstrong, who has done a wonderful job for you and for us in America.

When we had that terrible earthquake recently in California, Henry Cisneros was there before the aftershocks stopped. And people told me over and over again, "The last time this happened to us we had to go to Washington to find the Cabinet. Now you've got a Secretary who came to us, who's committed to us." That's the kind of job he's doing up there.

It's been a long time since an American Treasury Secretary has enjoyed anything approaching the prestige that Lloyd Bentsen has earned all over the world, in Asia, in Europe, in Latin America, and of course, here in the United States and in the Congress. I cannot say enough about him in front of you, his constituents, for all the advice he's given, all the leadership he's shown, and all the trouble he's kept me out of. [Laughter] I want to thank him so much.

I also want to say a special word of acknowledgement to your State Democratic Chairman, Bob Slagle, and to Governor Ann Richards, who I just left, and to all these Members of Congress who are here and those who aren't here.

I want to say, too, that there are several points I want to make tonight without giving